

resolution, H. Con. Res. 317, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# CONDEMNING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 976) condemning human rights abuses by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressing solidarity with the Iranian people.

The Clerk read as follows:

## H. RES. 976

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected through a controlled and fixed election process which does not allow the Iranian people to freely elect their leaders;

Whereas the Government of Iran is unaccountable to the will of the Iranian people;

Whereas the Government of Iran is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

Whereas the Government of Iran within both its legal framework and everyday practice continues to violate the civil and human rights of its citizens, in particular women, religious and ethnic minorities, and vocal opponents of the regime;

Whereas the Government of Iran practices discrimination against the aforementioned groups through denial of access to education and employment, seizure of private property, violent suppression of peaceful protest and freedom of assembly, arbitrary arrest and detention, physical and mental torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment, such as public executions, hanging, and stoning, and extra judicial killings of dissidents and ordinary citizens;

Whereas the Constitution of Iran promotes religious intolerance and prohibits religious freedom by endorsing one religion to the exclusion of other religious beliefs;

Whereas an unelected theocratic ruler and clerical elite exert control over the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Iranian Government;

Whereas the Iranian judiciary is not independent and can be subject to arbitrary dismissal by the clerics;

Whereas on December 16, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution discussing the human rights violations by the Government of Iran and insisting that Iran eliminate in law and in practice discrimination toward the aforementioned groups;

Whereas international human rights organizations have called for investigations into violent crackdowns of peaceful protests and other human rights violations which the Government of Iran has ignored;

Whereas Iran sent to the June 2006 inaugural meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Council Saeed Mortazavi, Tehran's Prosecutor General responsible for jailing hundreds of journalists and linked to the 2003

arrest, imprisonment, and murder of an Iranian-Canadian photojournalist, showing a blatant disregard for the issue of human rights reform; and

Whereas the Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights Practices and Report on International Religious Freedom document the human rights abuses by the Government of Iran and list Iran as a "Country of Particular Concern": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and strongly urges the international community to bring pressure on Iran to halt discrimination and violence toward its citizens, in particular women, religious and ethnic minorities, and vocal opponents of the regime;

(2) urges the Government of the United States to continue to pressure the Government of Iran into making measurable improvements in the human rights situation for the Iranian people; and

(3) expresses its unity with all Iranian people and shares their desire to see Iran become a free country with transparent, democratic institutions and equal rights for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of freedom for the Iranian people, and I want to thank Congressman CROWLEY and Congressman LANTOS for their efforts in support of this resolution. I want to thank Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her tireless efforts to see Iran become a free and democratic state.

For nearly 30 years, Iranians have lived under the extremist policies of religious clerics. Their human rights violations against the Iranian people defy common belief. The Iranian people deserve, indeed desire, the opportunity to live in a free and democratic society.

This is the dream of the vast majority of Iranians, and we should help them make this dream come true. It has been far too long since we have looked at the human rights record of one of the most evil regimes of the modern era. We know that Iran is the single largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. And we know that their leaders wish to continue inflicting terrible pain and suffering on any group of people who do not share their extremist beliefs.

However, we must also remember the pain and suffering of the Iranian people

at the hands of their leaders. Congress, the President, and the international community must address the excessive human rights abuses by Iran's Government. Since the Khomeini revolution in 1979, Iran has been ruled by a string of tyrants who use religion and politics as an excuse to persecute their own people.

Religious, ethnic, and gender discrimination are practiced every day by the Iranian judicial courts and the clerics who run them. People or groups critical to their government are given few rights under the law and no rights in practice.

The Government of Iran practices discrimination against its own people by denial of access to education and employment, seizure of private property, violent suppression of peaceful protest and freedom of assembly, arbitrary arrest and detention, physical and mental torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment such as public executions, hangings and stoning, and extra-judicial killings of dissidents and ordinary citizens.

Iran's clerical regime has been a serial abuser of human rights since it violently took over the country in 1979. But it is clear that since President Ahmadinejad took power, the abuse of Iranian citizens has increased. Under his rule, Iranians are tortured for simply practicing a different religion, for speaking a different idea, and even for not supporting the extremist mullahs.

The oppression of women under the Iranian regime is perhaps the most brutal and most offensive. Iranian women are not allowed to attend universities, to hold jobs, to drive a car. They are forced to cover their entire bodies in public. In many cases of rape, the accused man will not face any punishment, and the woman in question will be accused of fornication, will be imprisoned, and eventually put to death.

One case involved a young woman who was deeply in love with her husband, and without evidence or reason, and against the pleas of her own husband, was found guilty of adultery. She was buried alive up to her chest in Tehran and then stoned to death.

In other cases of abuse, people have been arrested, beaten, and even killed for eating during the month of Ramadan, or doing anything that the mullahs deemed inappropriate. According to Iranian law, the religious police can interrogate a suspect without a lawyer present, which allows them to beat prisoners until they confess, most often to a crime that they did not commit.

□ 1700

We must never forget these violations when we consider Iran's place in the international community. President Bush has attempted to engage the Iranian Government to end their illegal nuclear weapons program. This effort is crucial to keeping the world safe from a nuclear nightmare.

However, the effort must not end there. The United States and its allies must continue to pressure Iran to end the severe human rights violations against the Iranian people.

It is appropriate for us to raise this issue here today. This evening the President of Iran will address the world from the floor of the United Nations. His pleas and support of a nuclear Iran will fall on deaf ears. His continued defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions must end, and the international community must begin the process of isolating the Iranian regime until true reform in that country begins.

Human decency requires us to stand unanimously against Ahmadinejad's oppression of his own people. We must continue to pursue freedom for Iran through diplomacy, but we must also not shrink from our responsibility through the option of strength.

We must also pursue the policy of internal resistance and change from within Iran. The policies and extremist views of Iran's religious mullahs are not representative of the entire nation of Iran. There are many Iranian people who desire to be free and are willing to fight for it. I have met with them, and we should do everything we can to forward their cause.

Now is the time to save their countries, for them to save their own countries, for them to save their own societies and for them to save their own religion.

I would like to leave with a few powerful stories of Iranian citizens who were persecuted and killed at the hands of their own government. The first involved an innocent Iranian girl. The religious police will not even respect the private boundaries of the home. A young girl in Tehran was arrested for swimming in her home pool in a bathing suit. She was found guilty of causing a "state of arousal" in a neighbor, from whose house she could be seen. She was sentenced to 60 lashes, but she died after the 30th lash.

Another involved an Iranian photographer in 2003. A single mother, she had struggled to raise a child and to build a career in exile. Her son remembers her as a small but feisty and courageous woman who loved freedom. She left her son for a business trip to Iran and Afghanistan. She was arrested while photographing a group of people inquiring about their detained loved ones. She was interrogated and beaten for refusing to confess to being a spy. She died in a military hospital in Tehran as a result of her torture.

Another case involved a 52-year-old Iranian salesman, 1998. He believed in the Baha'i religion. In the eyes of the state, this made him the apostate, a member of the unprotected infidel community. He, too, was arrested and found guilty of converting a woman to his religion. He was eventually hanged in a public square on July 21, 1998.

These are just but a few stories that highlight the need for this important resolution, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I first would like to commend my good friend and distinguished colleague from Texas for introducing this important resolution and for his powerful and eloquent words.

This body has regularly condemned Iran for its nuclear program, which is clearly designed to build weapons of mass destruction. We have condemned Iran for its support of terrorism and other aggressive policies. But for far too long we have not adequately called attention to the broad range of horrific human rights violations practiced by the Islamist Republic of Iran.

In fact, Madam Speaker, Iran is among the world's leading human rights abusers. It is morally incumbent upon us to affirm our commitment to support the victims of Iranian repression and to express our sympathy for the long-denied democratic desires of the Iranian people. That is exactly what this resolution does.

Madam Speaker, I believe we all are familiar with many aspects of Iranian repression. Iran today is an authoritarian, intolerant, theocratic state, and the Iranians are at the mercy of a cynical, self-indulgent clerical elite, whose extremist views do not even reflect those of the majority of Iranian clergy.

We all know how Iran treats religious minorities, most infamously the Baha'i, and we all know that Iran represses democratic dissent, cooks the elections to make sure that the winners are theocrats unrepresentative of the will of the Iranian people.

But perhaps nothing more eloquently expresses Iran's cynicism about human rights than Iran's willingness to sign all manner of international agreements committing itself to adhere to international human rights standards while, in practice, scorning those very standards. Presumably the Iranian regime thinks it can fool us by signing documents.

In that regard, Madam Speaker, Iran's attitude towards its human rights obligations and its nuclear obligations are two sides of the same coin. Tehran takes neither set of commitments seriously.

By supporting this resolution, we will send a skyrocket message to the Iranian regime and to the Iranian people that we see through the regime's veil of cynicism, that we will keep the pressure on the Iranian regime to cease its repression, and that we look forward to the day when Iran will join the ranks of democratic, human-rights-respecting, law-abiding countries. We will not cease to believe in the goodwill and democratic inclinations of the vast majority of the Iranian people.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to my friend from Ohio as much time as he might consume.

Mr. KUCINICH. Once again, I am grateful to the gentleman from California for the opportunity to offer a slightly different perspective. While I continue to associate myself with my good friend Mr. LANTOS in the celebration of the imperative of human rights globally, I have specific concerns about the tenor of this resolution and its relationship to the administration's policy of ramping up for a war against Iran.

Again, I want to state that this is the third resolution that has been brought before this House this evening. You have to read it in the context of administration actions, which have been documented in published reports, that relate to an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran by sending elements of the Department of Defense inside of Iranian territory; number two, by planning a bombing, targets inside Iran; number three, by planning a naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz where 40 percent of the world's oil flows through.

We have to look at this in a broader context of an administrative foreign policy, which is really aimed at creating not stability, but instability in the region. You can look at the July 2006 Vanity Fair article, which goes into detail about the unfortunate administration escapade of tricking up a case for uranium from Niger with respect to Iraq. One of the administration's key advisers in that article basically made the case for chaos, which is an administration, I believe, policy. Now we are looking at Iran.

Now, this resolution, 976, in the third article, expresses its unity with all the Iranian people, shares their desire to see Iran become a free country with transparent democratic institutions and equal rights for all.

I pointed out earlier in debates that Iran had a democratic government under Mossadegh; that in October of 1951, under Mossadegh, Iran sought to nationalize its oil industry. That then resulted in a draft resolution submitted to the United Nations by the United Kingdom, and supported by the United States and France, as depicting Iran then as a threat to international peace and security.

Then we saw a coup d'etat that was organized by the U.S. and the U.K. Yes, we ought to stand for democracy. We ought to also stand for truth with respect to the historical unfolding of what we say we stand for.

Where does this resolution lead? Does it lead to a continued insistence that the Government of Iran restore human rights to everyone in Iran? If it does, wonderful. We all ought to go along with that. But if his resolution is just another brick on a path towards war, look out. This looks like Iraq all over again, and that is what my concern is.

If this resolution sets us on a path to war, how many of us in the Congress are prepared to see this administration borrow money from China and Japan to go to war against Iran, as they have

borrowed money from China and Japan to go to war against Iraq? We have to look at what we are doing here.

While this resolution, I am sure, will pass overwhelmingly, we have to see that circumstances are being set in order which could lead us towards a path of war against Iran. We have to ask ourselves, is that what we really want?

I can stand here with my colleagues and say, absolutely, I support the religious freedom of the Baha'i. I do. Absolutely. I support human rights for all people in Iran, and I do. Absolutely. I support democratic principles in Iran and every other country in the world, and I do.

But I am not for war against Iran. I don't believe the American people want war against Iran. I don't think they wanted war against Iraq, but they were dragged into it.

I am just offering these remarks as a cautionary note to make sure that we have our eyes open as we walk in the days ahead with respect to policy and Iran. Yes, we need to make sure that Iran has peaceful uses of its atomic energy. We have an obligation to do that.

But, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I maintain that we should begin first with direct negotiations with Iran. Second, we should assure Iran that we are not going to attack it. Third, we should demand that Iran open itself up to inspections once again by the IAEA. Fourth, we need assurances, and they are fair, that Iran is not going to be developing nuclear weapons.

There is a way out of this, and I am hopeful that in our stand for human rights, we are not paradoxically beginning a process that would deprive millions of Iranians of their human right to life.

I thank the gentleman from California for his friendship and also for his willingness to see debate in this House of the people. You have always done that, Mr. LANTOS. Whether we have agreed or not, you have always been willing to see the debate continue.

Mr. LANTOS. I thank my friend for his generous words.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 976, condemning human rights abuses by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressing solidarity with the Iranian people.

It is astonishing that the Iranian government denies that there is a human rights issue in the country. The Iranian government suppresses expression and opinion, and persecutes individual for peaceful expression of their political views. Iran is constantly cited and criticized by our Department of State, Amnesty International, and many other human rights watch groups for its human rights record.

I have long been an advocate of a free, independent, and democratic Iran; an Iran that is non-threatening to its neighbors and that honors its commitments in the world community. There is no dissent in the world community about the inherent dangers of nuclear proliferation in the region.

For years, I have been a supporter of the democratic movement in Iran, and today more

than ever, the people of Iran need to be supported, empowered, and given the confidence to create for themselves a new nation. Wars and appeasements are temporary actions, and not even close to a solution.

The only effective way to achieve a lasting peace and prosperity in the region is to support the Iranian people, men, women and children, in their endeavors to make Iran a democratic state.

Democracy is a struggle, but democracy is just. No one should experience the terror of a government that would torture or kill its own. We cannot ignore a country that gleefully thwarts international peace treaties and human rights conventions.

This bipartisan bill sends a very clear message that any government that oppresses its people will not be tolerated, and a smug tyranny is not acceptable. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

May we all soon see peace and stability return to all of the Middle East.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 976, introduced by my colleague, Mr. MCCAUL from Texas.

H. Res. 976, Condemns human rights abuses by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expresses solidarity with the Iranian people.

The resolution notes the injustices inflicted upon the people of Iran by an unaccountable government against their will.

It urges the President and the international community to increase pressure on the Iranian government to improve its human rights situation and expresses unity with the Iranian people.

The recent untimely deaths of two political prisoners, reinforces the urgency that Iran free all prisoners of conscience.

The incarceration of student and political opposition activists is a form of intellectual terrorism that seriously undermines indigenous democratic reform.

In addition, the recent decision by the Iranian government to outlaw the Center for Defense of Human Rights, which was established by the first Muslim Woman Nobel Laureate, Shirin Ebadi, is a violation of Iran's post revolutionary constitution.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is an opportunity for the American people to convey to the Iranian people that we support their efforts to bring freedom to their nation.

As a co-sponsor of this measure and strong advocate for the right of every human being—every Iranian—to live free from intimidation and be able to exercise their fundamental rights, I ask that we render our strong support for this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 976.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1715

#### RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE SUCCESS OF THE ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 959) recognizing and supporting the success of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 in increasing adoption and the efforts the Act has spurred including National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month, and encouraging adoption throughout the year.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 959

Whereas since the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the number of children adopted from foster care has increased significantly, with approximately 51,000 children adopted from foster care in fiscal year 2004 alone;

Whereas despite this remarkable progress, approximately 118,000 children in the United States foster care system are waiting to be adopted, and 49 percent of these children are at least nine years old;

Whereas adoptive families make an important difference in the lives of the children they adopt by providing a stable, nurturing environment for those children;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month are in November;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services launched a series of public service announcements promoting the adoption of children eight and older in 2002;

Whereas more than 6,000 children have been placed into adoptive homes since the Department of Health and Human Services launched [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org), a national photo listing service for children awaiting adoption across the United States;

Whereas judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, and child advocates in 45 States and the District of Columbia participated in 227 events in conjunction with National Adoption Day in 2005; and

Whereas these events finalized the adoptions of more than 3,300 children from foster care: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and supports the success of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and of the efforts it has spurred;

(2) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month; and

(3) encourages adoption throughout the year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.